Forest land across the canal of Sardar Sarovar Project

3355. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any forest land has come across the main canal of Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, how much;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has furnished proposal to the Government of India for release of forest land coming across the main canal of S.S.P.;

(d) if so, whether Government have issued any orders in that regard for release of the forest land coming across the main canal of S.S.P.; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the proposals furnished by Gujarat State Government, 29.722 ha. of forest land is required for construction of Narmada Main Canal in Phase-I and 44.1499 ha. for construction of Narmada Main Canal in Phase-II. In addition diversion of 1.40 ha. and 1.652 ha. of forest land at different locations are also required.

(c) Yes, Sir, Four different proposals have been furnished by the State Government of Gujarat.

(d) and (e) Out of 4 proposals, formal approval order for diversion of 29.722 ha. of forest land for construction of Narmada Main Canal in Phase-I has been issued on 29-4-1992 and approval in principle for diversion of 44.1499 ha. of forest land for construction of Narmada Main Canal in Phase-II has been issued on 22-6-1992. The remaining two proposals for diversion of 1.40 ha. and 1.652 ha. forest land are pending with the State Government for furnishing certain essential lacking details.

Wildlife Trade

3356. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 29th November, 1992 under the caption "steps to control wildlife trade";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto and facts of the matter;

(c) the details of steps taken including recent measures to tackle the phenomena; and

(d) what is the estimated number of cases of illegal wildlife trade and number of cases filed and decided upon during the last three years along with the details/ amendment if any proposed to the wildlife protection act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to appoint Army Officers as Honorary Wildlife Wardens in hospitable high altitude areas where civilian habitation is sparse and dispersed. Linkages have also been established with Coastguard, Custom Police and Revenue intelligence authorities for controlling the illegal trade. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun, has been asked to arrange training programme for army officers.

Steps taken to tackle the illegal trade in wildlife include:

(i) Hunting of wild animals, for purposes other than protection of life, education, research and population management under Sections 11 and 12 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, has been banned.

(ii) Trade in wild animals included in Schedule-I and Part-II of Schedule-II of the Act is banned. The trade in

remaining species is strictly regulated according to the condition of the licence granted for this purpose.

(iii) International trade in endangered species of plants and animals and articles made thereof, is regulated under the provisions of the Conservation on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(iv) Central assistance is provided to State/UT Governments for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.

(v) A network of 418 wildlife sanctuaries and 74 national parks covering 4.2% of the geographical area of the country, has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries, on request from the State Governments.

(vi) Special schemes for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants are being implemented.

(vii) A system of cash rewards has been introduced for getting intelligence about poachers and illegal traders.

(viii) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in animals, is received.

(ix) Cooperation of Customs, Revenue Intelligence, Coast Guard and Army authorities is being taken in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.

(d) No amendment to Wild Life (Protection) Act is under consideration of the Government at present. Information regarding cases of illegal trade in wildlife products detected by the Directorate of Wildlife Preservation through its regional centres during three years is set out below:

Year	Number of cases detected
1989	99
1990	122
1991	123

The information about cases filed and decided is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Genetic/species thefts from Indian forests

3357. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that cases of genetic/species thefts from the Indian Forests are on the increase; and

(b) What legislative and administrative measures are being taken by Government to prevent such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) While occassional cases of species thefts come to the notice of Central Government, State Wildlife Authorities have not reported any general increase in the incidence of such thefts.

(b) Legislative and administrative measures being taken by Government to prevent such thefts are as under:

(i) The Indian Forest Act, 1927 has been amended from time to time in order to keep the threat of theft of forestry species and forest products under control.

(ii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act was passed in 1972 and has been amended time to time and a comprehensive amendment was brought about in 1991 in order to make to law more stringent and deterrent for thieves and smugglers.

(iii) International trade in endangered species plants and animals and articles made thereof, is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(iv) A network of 418 wildlife sanctuaries and 74 national parks